ROCHESTER FREEDOM SINGERS

"LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS"

DR. THEODORE F. ASHIZAWA, CONDUCTOR

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
150 SOUTH CLINTON · ROCHESTER, NY
FRIDAY DEC. 3, 1993 · 8:00PM
SATURDAY DEC. 4, 1993 · 8:00PM

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Rochester Freedom Singers

Light in the Darkness

Dr. Theodore F. Ashizawa, Conductor

Friday, December 3, 1993
Saturday, december 4, 1993
8:00 p.m.

First Universalist Church
Rochester, New York

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History

The Rochester Freedom Singers was organized in the fall of 1992 by John Strand and Larry Mancine. At first, the group was small enough to practice for its first public concert in Mr. Strand's home. That first concert was given in December 1992 and featured Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* as its major work. The inaugural concert also featured guest performer Joseph Steffan, tenor, singing both with the chorus and as a soloist on several songs by Britten. The group's second major concert, "One World, Many Voices," was held in June 1993.

Since that time, the chorus has performed locally, by invitation, at several different public functions, most recently at Mt. Aenon Baptist Church for a 24 hour "Gospel Fest;" Downtown United Presbyterian Church in a benefit for AIDS ministry within the northeast district of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches; and the University of Rochester Chapel, to commemorate World AIDS Day. Future performances include the Requiem of Gabriel Fauré with the Brighton Symphony Orchestra on March 6, 1994, and the chorus' spring concert in early June.

The Rochester Freedom Singers welcomes new members, in both singing and non-singing capacities, on Thursday, December 9, at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, at 7:00 pm. No auditions are necessary! The only qualification is a desire to sing or to be a member of the group in areas of production, promotion, fund raising, and other non-musical activities, all in an atmosphere of genuine brother- and sisterhood. For more information, please call 544-9969.

Program Notes

Rejoice in the Lamb

Benjamin Britten (1913-1977) composed *Rejoice in the Lamb* in 1943 for a church festival at St. Matthew's in Northampton. It sets to music text excerpted from the poem *Jubilate Agno* by Christopher Smart, an eighteenth century poet. Smart was deeply religious, "but of a strange and unbalanced mind;" *Jubilate Agno* was written in an asylum.

It is said of Britten that "while his instrumental works show originality, they do not convey the feeling of inevitability which is the mark of all the vocal music, however superficially unconventional it may appear;" and, "words seem not merely to stimulate but to challenge his ability to absorb interactable stuff into his music." This cantata is a superb example of Britten's affinity for words. According to music critic Emily Coleman, "Who but Britten could catch the flavor of Christopher Smart's half-mad, but wholly religious poetry?" Musically, one notices figuration in the accompaniment—runs, trills, accelerated rhythms and joyfully unusual melodic intervals. Britten's other works include opera, instrumental, choral, and solo songs.

Text from *Jubilate Agno*, by Christopher Smart

Rejoice in God, all ye tongues; give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb.
Nations, and languages, and every Creature, in which is the breath of Life.
Let man and beast appear before him, and magnify his name together.

Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a leopard to the altar, and consecrate his spear to the Lord.
Let Ishmael dedicate a Tyger, and give praise for the liberty in which the Lord has let him at large.
Let Balaam appear with an Ass, and bless the Lord his people and his creatures for a reward eternal.
Let Daniel come forth with a Lion, and praise God with all his might

through faith in Christ Jesus.
Let Ithamar minister with a Chamois, and bless the name of Him, that cloatheth the naked.
Let Jakim with the Satyr bless God in the dance.
Let David bless with the Bear—The beginning of victory to the Lord—to the Lord the perfection of excellence.

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnifical and mighty.

For I will consider my cat Jeoffry.
For he is a servant of the Living God, duly and daily serving him.
For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.
For he knows that God is his Savior
For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements.
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.
For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty, from whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.

For the mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For—this is a true case—Cat takes female mouse—male mouse will not depart, but stands threat'ning and daring.
"If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a creature as you are."
For the mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For the Mouse is of an hospitable disposition.

For the flowers are great blessings.
For the Flowers have their angels even the words of God's creation.
For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.

For I am under the same accusation with my Savior—
For they said, "he is beside himself."
for the officers of the peace are at variance with me, and the watchman smites me with his staff.
For Silly fellow! Silly fellow! is against me and belongeth neither to me nor to my family.
For I am in twelve HARDSHIPS, but he that was born of a virgin shall deliver me out of all.

For H is a spirit and therefore he is God.

For K is king and therefore he is God.
For L is love and therefore he is God.
For M is musick and therefore he is God.

For the instruments are by their rhimes.
for the Shawn rhimes are lawn fawn moon boon and the like.
for the harp rhimes are sing ring string and the like.
For the cymbal rhimes are bell well toll soul and the like.
For the flute rhimes are tooth youth suit mute and the like.
For the Bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like.
For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place beat heat and the like.
For the Clarinet rhimes are clean seen and the like.
For the trumpet rhimes are sound bound soar boar and the like.
For the TRUMPET of God is a blessed intelligence and so are all the instruments in HEAVEN.
For GOD the father Almighty plays upon the HARP of stupendous magnitude and melody.

For at that time malignity ceases and the devils themselves are at peace.
For this time is perceptible to man by a remarkable stillness and serenity of soul.

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnifical and mighty.

Carol of the Birds

Howard Rosner was born 36 years ago in Miami Beach. By profession an anesthesiologist at Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan, his musical background includes training at the New England Conservatory of Music and the Julliard School of Music. He is now studying music theory and composition with John David Ernest. He has composed music for ballets, oratorios, and other choral works.

Carol of the Birds was originally written for four part men's chorus and is based on an old Catalan (Spanish) carol. The version heard tonight, for mixed chorus, was adapted for presentation in 1992 for a church in New Jersey, and is one of six or seven of Rosner's works being performed by choruses this

December. The choral parts are written to sound like wind under the birds in the first section of the setting, then evolving into the dense harmonies of the latter part, while the solo line is a simple but beautiful melody.

When rose the eastern star,
The birds came from afar,
In that full night of glory.
With one melodious voice,
They sweetly did rejoice
And sang the wond'rous story.

Sang, praising God on high,
Enthroned against the sky,
And his fair mother Mary.

The eagle left his lair,
Came winging through the air,
His message loud and rising.
And to his joyous cry
The Sparrow made reply,
His answer sweetly voicing.

O'ercome are death and strife
This night, new life,
The robin sang, rejoicing.

When rose the Eastern star,
The birds came from afar.

The Freedom Award

The Rochester Freedom Award is presented annually to an individual who has displayed exemplary and unselfish contribution to the freedom movement. After soliciting nominations, the recipient is chosen by members of the Rochester Freedom Singers. While personal and collective freedoms vary, their pursuit with passion and determination is reflected in the number and quality of nominations presented to the chorus for consideration. The Rochester Freedom Award is very humbly bestowed upon proven leaders each year by artists committed to the freedom movement.

Ramona Santorelli has gained national attention in her struggle to win topfree equality for women. Beginning in the summer of 1986, she has continually challenged the state law which makes it illegal for a woman to appear topfree in public, unless she is breast feeding or for the purpose of entertainment (*e.g.*, a topless bar). Her effort to change the law has included appearances on *The Phil Donahue Show*, *Good Morning America*, and various other television and radio talk shows and publications. After two arrests and numerous court appearances, in the summer of 1991 the New York State Court of Appeals ruled in her favor. topfree women are no longer arrested in New York State.

Born in Long Island, New York, in 1958, Ms. Santorelli is proud of her third grade report card, which reads in part: "Ramona is very disrespectful and insolent. She has no regard for authority whatsoever." She was voted both Prom Queen and Class clown in her senior year at JFK High School. In 1976 she moved to Rochester, where she attended St. John Fisher College on a basketball scholarship. She has coached that sport, and is master of ball handling, basketball tricks, and clowning.

Ms. Santorelli has spoken to and conducted workshops for

various groups, among them the Men's Antiviolence Group at Genesee Hospital, Alternatives to Violence Program with the Quakers, Rochester Eating Disorders, and the Gay Alliance. She currently conducts workshops on human sexuality for area colleges, and is finishing her degree at St. John Fisher.

Karen Hagberg believes that nothing is more important to the survival of the world than the education of young children and their exposure to fine art. Ms. Hagberg, a teacher of the Suzuki Piano Method, has been a guest teacher at workshops and lectures throughout the world. A compilation of her teaching newsletter, *Matsumoto News*, is being published in both English and Japanese.

Ms. Hagberg has long been active in the feminist movement, and in the gay liberation movement. She is one of the originators of the Rochester Women's Community Chorus, and is a founding member of the Japan Association of Rochester.

Jennifer Hyman was nominated for a Freedom Award and received honorable mention for her Pulitzer Prize-nominated investigative reporting series on the CIA and its intimate covert ties to the Rochester Institute of Technology. Ms. Hyman, who was raised and educated in Africa, showed incredible diligence and courage in her reporting, which had worldwide ramifications. She currently is an editorial page editor with the *Democrat & Chronicle* in Rochester.

Light in the Darkness

The Rochester Freedom Singers
Theodore F. Ashizawa, musical director
Cecilia Sun, accompanist
Brian W. Ambrose, artistic interpreter

There Shall a Star Come out of Jacob — Felix Mendellssohn
Arr. Dudley Buck

Denise Spadaccia, soprano
Janis Keefe, contralto
Ken Setera, alto
Larry Mancine, bass

Rejoice in the Lamb — Benjamin Britten
Lyrics: Christopher Smart

Heavenly Light — A. Kopylow

Freedom Award Presentation
Recipient: — *Ramona Santorelli*
Honorable Mention: — *Karen Hagberg*
Jennifer Hyman

Candle on the Water — Al Kasha & Joel Hirschhorn

Andrew Keefe, guitar

Carol of the Birds — Howard L. Rosner

John B. White, tenor

INTERMISSION

Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52 — Fréderic Chopin (1810 - 1849)

Cecilia Sun, piano

Jubilate Deo — Orlando de Lasso

Deck the Hall — Traditional Welsh Carol
Arr.: Homer Whitford

I Wonder as I Wander — Traditional Appalachian Carol
Arr.: John Jacob Niles & Lewis Henry Norton

Tawn Feeney, soprano
Michael L. Lee, tenor

Still, Still, Still — Traditional Austrian Carol
Arr.: Norman Luboff
Lyrics: Marilyn Keith & Alan Bergman

Jennifer Randell, flute

Wassail Song — English Folk Song
Arr.: R. Vaughan Williams

The Sound of Silence — Paul Simon
Arr.: Frank Metis

Andrew Keefe, guitar

The Light that Shines in Me — Douglas Wagner
Lyrics: Charlotte Lee

Light in the Darkness — Dave & Jean Perry

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The Rochester Freedom Singers

Sopranos
Scott Coleman
Tawn Feeney
Katia Iannacome
Janis Keefe
Pat Nowicki
Denise Spadaccia*
Chris Weiss

Altos
Jodi Cohen
Susan David
Diane Elmer*
Kelley Kreilick Jones
Michele Mandina
Patty Polcyn
Jennifer Randell
Lynn Rust

Tenors
Richard P. Cann
Bill Coleman
Michael L. Lee
Eugenia H. Martin
Bud Minard
Lew Ojeda
Bill Thompson
John B. White*

Basses
Mark Andrew Eckstein*
Henry W. Jones, IV
Fran Keefe
Larry Mancine
Dan Ocampo
Steve Randell
Craig R. Sellers*
John Strand

*Section Leaders

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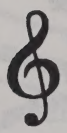

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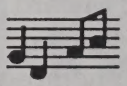
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Who's Who

Dr. Theodore F. Ashizawa, (Music Director) is also the founder and conductor of the Genesee Chorale and the Ars Nova Singers. A native of San Francisco, he holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from San José State. He received the prestigious frank Damrosch Prize in Choral conducting at the Julliard School of Music in New York City. He joined the faculty of Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York, and soon after received his Doctorate Of Musical Arts from the University of Washington. Dr. Ashizawa was awarded the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1976.

Cecilia Sun (Accompanist) was born in Hong Kong, and since 1984 has made her home in Perth, Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the Western Australian Conservatorium of Music, where she studied with Eastman School of Music graduate Dr. John Roberts. Now, on a Fullbright scholarship, she is herself studying at Eastman, with Professor Barry Snyder.

Brian W. Ambrose (Artistic Interpreter) has been a full time freelance interpreter in the Rochester area for the past four years. He holds a a Bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology from Nazareth College. Brian is an adjunct faculty member at Genesee Community College, where he teaches sign at both the Batavia and Albion campuses. In addition to freelance interpreting, he recently worked with the SUNY Brockport productions of *Cabaret* and *Our Town*. At Nazareth College he interprets for the Children's Theatre productions. Brian was delighted to interpret for the Flirtations, and he recently appeared with Connie Deming in a two person show entitled *Poetry in Motion* at Writers and Books. Brian's most recent engagement was for Ryan White's mother when she spoke in Rochester on November 5 for a Community Health Network/

AIDS Rochester event.

Denise Spadaccia resides in the Batavia area with her husband and two young daughters. During her college years she sang with the Festival Chorus at SUNY Fredonia and the University Chorus at SUNY Albany. in recent years she has sung with the Genesee Chorale and the Ars Nova Singers, in which she has also performed various solos.

Janis Keefe is a native of Rochester and a registered nurse, working as the Domiciliary Care Supervisor at the Genesee County Nursing Home in Batavia. She has sung with the Rochester Oratorio Society, Genesee Chorale, and Ars Nova Singers of Batavia. She is also active in community theater in Batavia. Solo performances include Handel's *Messiah*, *The Creation* by Haydn, and *Mass in B-Minor* by Bach. She has also sung solos with the Rochester Freedom Singers, including last year's performance of *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten.

Ken Setera has been a soloist at Temple B'rith Kodesh, and the First Unitarian Church choir. In the past he has studied voice with Mr. Milford Fargo, and is currently studying with Mrs. Jane McCoy. He is a sales representative for the Pfaudler company.

Larry Mancine is co-founder of the Rochester Freedom Singers. He has studied voice and music theory with Diane Marino at the Hochstein School of Music. Larry also sings for weddings, and is a cantor at Holy Cross Church in Charlotte.

Andrew Keefe was born in Batavia, New York, much to his surprise. He is the son of Janis Keefe and stepson of musical director Theodore F. Ashizawa, and is an engineering student at Genesee Community College. He has played the guitar—classical, jazz, and rock—for seven years, and recently studied Spanish classical guitar while a student in Valencia, Spain.

John B. White resides in Irondequoit, and is a librarian with the Rochester Public Library. He studied music at SUNY Geneseo, and sang with the Geneseo Chamber Singers. He was a soloist for the West Avenue United Methodist Church from 1981 through 1988, and is currently singing with the Open Arms M.C.C. choir.

Tawn Feeney joined the Rochester freedom singers in the fall of 1993, and is proving to be a major addition to the soprano section. A strong leader and a strong voice, Tawn previously sang with the Rochester Community Women's Chorus.

Michael L. Lee has been an integral member of the Rochester Freedom Singers since the group's inception in September 1992. He recently performed the solo in our rendition of the spiritual, "Goin' Home on a Cloud." He also inspires the chorus. A former Mr. Gay Rochester, Michael performs publicly at numerous private and public events.

Jennifer Randell is an alto in the Rochester Freedom Singers. She has played flute in school bands and orchestra, and for church choirs and other functions.

Jacob Randell, 2 1/2 year old son of Jennifer and Steven (bass), has fine tuned his singing skills in day care in Rochester. Pending successful toilet training, he will become the youngest full time member.

Committees

Freedom Award Committee:	Ted Ashizawa Susan David (chair) Michael Lee
Program Committee:	Jodi Cohen Mark Eckstein Janis Keefe Bud Minard
(coordinator)	
Pogrom Subcommittee	Jodi Cohen Mark Eckstein
Ogodnowwhat Subcommittee	Jodi Cohen Mark Eckstein John Strand
Music Selection Committee:	Bill Coleman Susan David Katia Iannacome Bud Minard Dan Ocampo Cecilia Sun Bill Thompson (chair)
Painful Puns Committee:	Mark Eckstein (punjab) Diane Elmer (puntiff) John Strand (pundit)

The Production Crew

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Program God	Mark Eckstein
Rehearsal Accompanist	Cecilia Sun
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Rehearsal Announcements	Larry Mancine
Piano & Furniture Movers	All of us, again
Møøse Cøstumes	MPFC
Program Notes	Janis Keefe

Special Thanks To:

Ted Ashizawa, for love, energy, and faith; Larry Mancine and John Strand, for founding the Rochester Freedom Singers; Ramona Santorelli, Karen Hagberg, Jennifer Hyman, Joseph Steffan, for their inspiration; Howard Rosner, for making *Carol of the Birds* available to us; Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, for their risers (excuse me?); Susan Jordan of the *Empty Closet*; Sharon McDaniel of the *Democrat & Chronicle*; Downtown United Presbyterian Church; Genesee Community College; First Universalist Church; Silkwood Books; the Village Green; Joan Giuffre; The Bachelor's Forum; Rochester Custom Leathers; Parkleigh Pharmacy; 40 Union; Pastor Beth; our advertisers, patrons, and sponsors; you, the audience!; and each other, for giving of ourselves so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Congratulations,
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